



# NAVA *News*

Assemblymember Pedro Nava  
Representing District 35

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## Assemblymember Nava Appointed Chair of Select Committee on Green Economy

Speaker of the California State Assembly John A. Pérez, recently appointed Assemblymember Pedro Nava as Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on California's Green Economy.

Assemblymember Nava will hold hearings throughout the state, including the Central Coast, to examine various sectors of California's growing Green Economy.

"The Select Committee will join with business, education, and government to emphasize what has to be done to remove barriers to, and encourage investment and job creation in, our emerging green economy," said Assemblymember Nava.

The term "Green Economy" encompasses actions that protect or restore the environment or conserve natural resources. These economic activities include education, compliance, public awareness, and training in the fields of renewable energy, energy efficiency, greenhouse gas reduction, pollution reduction and cleanup, recycling and waste reduction, and agricultural and natural resources conservation.

Because of our state's progressive environmental policies, the Green Economy in California has grown substantially faster than other states and has outstripped traditional job growth.

"California's Green Economy is attracting worldwide attention for job growth and investment," said Assemblymember Nava. "California businesses are leading the way in the Green Economy, but there is much more to do. I want to help California create manufacturing jobs so we don't have to import component parts for our cutting edge equipment. I want to stimulate lending so our businesses don't have to pay high interest rates on borrowed money. I want to implement already existing technology so we stimulate growth. This is an exciting time for California and the response I have received is very encouraging."



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## No Dispensaries Santa Barbara Honored for Community Commitment

Recently, Assemblymember Pedro Nava honored a local group, No Dispensaries Santa Barbara, with a legislative resolution for their extraordinary work against the proliferation of pot shops in Santa Barbara.

While recognizing there are patients with serious medical conditions who, after a legitimate medical evaluation, could benefit from non-profit medicinal marijuana provided by a primary caregiver under Proposition 215, Nava has become increasingly alarmed at the spread of purported medical marijuana storefronts.



***Assemblymember Nava presented a legislative resolution to a group of citizens, including school officials and nurses, who have worked to alert the Santa Barbara community about the proliferation of marijuana dispensaries.***

No Dispensaries Santa Barbara compiled a map of Santa Barbara that showed the community could be impacted by as many as 22 pot shops. By comparison, the City of Oakland, the eighth largest city in California with a population of more than 400,000, has authorized only four dispensaries.

"No Dispensaries Santa Barbara has been instrumental in educating our community regarding the significance of the problem. They deserve recognition for their concern, dedication, grassroots organizing, and commitment to the people of Santa Barbara," Nava said.

## Ventura City Council Votes to Extend Dispensary Ban

At its July 12, 2010 meeting, the Ventura City Council voted to extend an existing moratorium on pot shops through September 2011. According to an article in the *Ventura County Star*, the Council, along with the City Attorney and City Manager, said approving medical marijuana cooperatives would open the floodgates for illegal resale of the drug, increase crime and become a costly financial burden on the city.

The moratorium was supported by the City of Ventura's Chief of Police, the Ventura County District Attorney's Office and others.

Ventura Police Chief Ken Corney told the council that the Santa Barbara police narcotics division spends a majority of its time dealing with illegal dispensaries. He said that one Santa Barbara dispensary has more than 13,000 clients.

Assemblymember Nava attended the meeting and spoke in favor of a ban. Councilwoman and former Mayor Christy Weir said, "Selling marijuana in storefronts is not in the best interests of Ventura County residents."

Santa Barbara is the only city in the Central Coast to allow marijuana sales. San Luis Obispo to the north and cities in Ventura County have dispensary bans.

## Leadership Academy has Positive Effect on 'At-Promise' Youth of Oxnard

For the last 10 years, a leadership group in a small storefront on A Street in Oxnard has been making a real difference in the lives of its young participants.

The KEYS Leadership Academy at the Rudy F. Acuna Gallery & Community Center at Café on A celebrated its 10th anniversary on July 23. The community center is also home to a colorful collection of Latino art.

"We use visual, performance and other media of expression to organize and empower both youth and their families," explained Dr. Deborah DeVries, of Oxnard, who leads the art-based life skills and mentoring program along with artist Armando Vasquez.

The 10-week program is the only one of its kind in that it has a formalized relationship with Oxnard College where participants can earn transferable college credits.

"All our youth ages 14 and over are enrolled in the Personal Guidance program to begin their college careers," DeVries said. The young people, ages 10-24, also receive a small stipend.

"We work with 'at-promise' youth," said DeVries, using her own alternative term for the usual phrase "at-risk." "They are overcoming multiple barriers to success in the community such as domestic violence, poverty, lack of adequate education, major health and language barriers, and limited access to justice."

The academy also requires that participants complete a community improvement project. "In addition to the leadership, art, and guidance training, youth develop healthy peer relationships, are provided legal assistance through relationships with the Street Law project and are involved in educational and meaningful relationships with mentors," DeVries said.

"I commend both Dr. DeVries and Armando Vasquez for their dedication in turning young lives around and being teachers and mentors," said Assemblymember Nava. "Their work is an asset to our community."



***The KEYS Leadership Academy at the Rudy F. Acuna Gallery & Community Center at Café on A celebrated its 10th anniversary July 23***

## Two New Judges Appointed to Ventura County Superior Court

The Superior Court of Ventura County is now fully staffed with a complement of 29 judges, thanks to an appropriation from the State Legislature. Mark S. Borrell and David M. Hirsch were both installed on July 30 in a ceremony in the Hall of Justice at the Ventura County Government Center.

Borrell, 50, of Camarillo, has served as a court commissioner for the Ventura County Superior Court since 2005. Previously, he was an attorney for Benton, Orr, Duval and Buckingham from 1993 to 2005 and for Borrell and Borrell from 1986 to 1993. Borrell earned a Juris Doctorate degree from McGeorge School of Law and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He fills the vacancy created by the death of Judge Douglas W. Daily.

Hirsch, 43, of Ventura, has served as a court commissioner for the Ventura County Superior Court since 2008. Previously, he was a deputy public defender for the Ventura County Public Defender's Office from 2003 to 2008 and an associate for the Law Offices of Lawrence Taylor from 2002 to 2003. Hirsch was a sole practitioner from 2000 to 2002 and deputy district attorney for the Shasta County District Attorney's Office from 1997 to 2000. Prior to that, he was vice president and general counsel for Hirsch Development from 1995 to 1997 and an associate for the Law Offices of Joseph Ryan in 1994. Hirsch earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of San Diego School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Los Angeles. Hirsch fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge William Lynch.

"Congratulations to our new Superior Court judges," said Assemblymember Nava, who spoke at the installation ceremony. "They both bring distinguished careers of service to the bench."



# California Arts Council Grant Benefits Young People at Juvenile Facility

Rehabilitation programs at the Providence School, located at the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Facility in Oxnard, have taken a turn to the creative with the help of funding from the California Arts Council.

Last fall, the Arts Council helped pay for a quilt project centered on the Roman goddess Minerva. The project was facilitated through the Ventura County Arts Council. The teens at the Providence School were directed by Ventura artist MB Hanrahan, who has been working with at-risk youth and incarcerated teens for 15 years.

The art projects are designed to provide not only creative growth, but also teach important life skills. The young women were asked to interpret their vision of the Roman Goddess Minerva, known for her courage, strength, and wisdom. She is also featured on the California State Seal. The sketches were then transferred to muslin squares and then vibrantly filled in with acrylic paint. Later, the squares became quilts which were exhibited at the California Governor and First Lady's Conference on Women in October.



Before embarking on the project, students were asked to provide a bit of self-reflection on the theme in an effort to channel positive thoughts.

"I was inspired in this project. It helped my self-control, just like Minerva," said one participant. "Now knowing what I learned, I would help in trying to inspire someone else so they can be exposed to how it helps focus."

According to another young participant, "I believe I'm an artist — someone with a creative mind. I think that having fun and doing what I like to do really let me put some energy in something positive."

Hanrahan, who is also well known locally for her colorful murals, said she will be working once again with the Providence students in the fall.



"It's a privilege and honor to be tapped as the artist who works with youth on the statewide Minerva project, both in 2009 and upcoming fall 2010," Hanrahan said. "Discussion and the subsequent expression of those qualities attributed to the goddess Minerva promote the character traits that may propel these teens out of a cycle of incarceration. Providence School's individual pieces create a symbolic quilt that, exhibited with other group's quilts, represents our efforts at creative youth intervention in Ventura County."

Assemblymember Nava, who has also volunteered to judge holiday art contests at the juvenile facility, praised the school's efforts. "This is an engaging approach to instilling good values in our at-risk youth. The students enjoy the projects and were rewarded by knowing their efforts were displayed at a statewide event."

## Assemblymember Pedro Nava, 35th District, California

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